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IN THE CLAIMS

Please AMEND THE CLAIMS as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for improving a statistical message classifier, comprising:
 - testing a message with a machine classifier, wherein the machine classifier is capable of making a classification of the message and the machine classifier is a reliable classifier having a probability of erroneous classification of less than one percent; and
 - in the event the machine classifier makes the classification, updating the statistical message classifier according to the classification made by the machine classifier, wherein the statistical message classifier is configured to detect an unsolicited message and comprises a knowledge base that tracks the spam probability of features in classified messages.
2. (previously presented) The method for improving a message classifier as recited in claim 1, wherein the machine classifier is further capable of making no classification on the message.
3. (cancelled)
4. (cancelled)
5. (previously presented) The method for improving a message classifier as recited in claim 1, wherein the machine classifier includes a white list classifier.
6. (previously presented) The method for improving a message classifier as recited in claim 1, wherein the machine classifier includes a collaborative fingerprinting classifier.

7. (previously presented) The method for improving a message classifier as recited in claim 1, wherein the machine classifier includes an image analyzer.
8. (previously presented) The method for improving a message classifier as recited in claim 1, wherein the machine classifier includes a probe account.
9. (previously presented) The method for improving a message classifier as recited in claim 1, wherein the machine classifier includes a challenge-response classifier.
10. (previously presented) The method for improving a message classifier as recited in claim 1, wherein updating the statistical message classifier comprises updating a knowledge base used to train the statistical message classifier.
11. (previously presented) The method for improving a message classifier as recited in claim 1, wherein updating the statistical message classifier comprises updating a statistical model used by the statistical message classifier.
12. (previously presented) The method for improving a message classifier as recited in claim 1, wherein updating the statistical message classifier comprises parsing the message to obtain a feature.
13. (previously presented) The method for improving a message classifier as recited in claim 1, wherein updating the statistical message classifier comprises parsing the message to obtain a feature and updating a counter corresponding to the feature.
14. (previously presented) The method for improving a message classifier as recited in claim 1, wherein updating the statistical message classifier comprises parsing the message to obtain a feature and updating a training set.

15. (previously presented) The method for improving a message classifier as recited in claim 1, wherein updating the statistical message classifier comprises parsing the message to obtain a feature and computing a spam probability associated with the feature.
16. (previously presented) The method for improving a message classifier as recited in claim 1, wherein updating the statistical message classifier comprises parsing the message to obtain a feature and computing a score associated with the feature.
17. (previously presented) The method for improving a message classifier as recited in claim 1, wherein the message is a previously stored message.
18. (previously presented) The method for improving a message classifier as recited in claim 1, wherein the message is an incoming message.
19. (previously presented) The method for improving a message classifier as recited in claim 1, in the event that the message is not classifiable by the classifier, further comprising testing the message with another machine classifier.

20. (currently amended) A method for improving a statistical message classifier comprising:

testing a message with a first classifier wherein the first classifier is a reliable classifier and capable of making a first classification with a probability of erroneous classification of less than one percent;

in the event that the message is classifiable by the first classifier, updating the statistical message classifier according to the first classification;

in the event that the first classifier does not make the classification, testing the message with a second classifier, wherein the second classifier is capable of making a second classification; and

in the event that the second classifier makes the classification, updating the statistical message classifier according to the second classification, wherein the statistical message classifier is configured to detect an unsolicited message and comprises a knowledge base that tracks the spam probability of features in classified messages.

21. (cancelled)

22. (currently amended) The method for improving a message classifier as recited in claim 20, wherein the second classifier is a reliable classifier having a probability of erroneous classification of less than ~~approximately~~ one percent.

23. (currently amended) ~~The method for improving a message classifier as recited in claim 20;~~ A method for improving a statistical message classifier comprising:

testing a message with a first classifier wherein the first classifier is a reliable good classifier capable of making a first classification, wherein having a probability of erroneous classification [[of]] is less than approximately one percent;

in the event that the message is classifiable by the first classifier, updating the statistical message classifier according to the first classification;

in the event that the first classifier does not make the classification, testing the message with a second classifier, wherein the second classifier is capable of making a second classification; and

in the event that the second classifier makes the classification, updating the statistical message classifier according to the second classification, wherein the statistical message classifier is configured to detect an unsolicited message and comprises a knowledge base that tracks the spam probability of features in classified messages.

24. (currently amended) ~~The method for improving a message classifier as recited in claim 20,~~ A method for improving a statistical message classifier comprising:

testing a message with a first classifier, wherein the first classifier is a reliable junk classifier capable of making a first classification, wherein having a probability of erroneous classification [[of]] is less than approximately one percent;

in the event that the message is classifiable by the first classifier, updating the statistical message classifier according to the first classification;

in the event that the first classifier does not make the classification, testing the message with a second classifier, wherein the second classifier is capable of making a second classification; and

in the event that the second classifier makes the classification, updating the statistical message classifier according to the second classification, wherein the statistical message classifier is configured to detect an unsolicited message and comprises a knowledge base that tracks the spam probability of features in classified messages.

25. (currently amended) The method for improving a message classifier as recited in claim [[20]] 23, wherein the second classifier is a reliable good classifier having a probability of erroneous classification of less than approximately one percent.

26. (currently amended) The method for improving a message classifier as recited in claim [[20]] 24, wherein the second classifier is a reliable junk classifier having a probability of erroneous classification of less than approximately one percent.

27. (currently amended) The method for improving a message classifier as recited in claim 20, wherein the first classifier is [[a]] user-augmented classifier.

28. (currently amended) A system for classifying a message, comprising:

a statistical message classifier configured to detect an unsolicited message and comprising a knowledge base that tracks the spam probability of features in classified messages; and

a machine classifier coupled to the statistical message classifier, the machine classifier configured to test the message[[.]], wherein the machine classifier is capable of making a reliable classification having a probability of erroneous classification of less than one percent, and in the event the machine classifier makes the classification, the statistical message classifier is updated according to the reliable classification made by the machine classifier.

29. (currently amended) A system for improving a statistical message classifier, comprising:

a first classifier configured to test the message, the first classifier capable of reliably making a first classification and having a probability of erroneous classification of less than one percent, the first classifier further [[and]] configured to update the statistical message classifier according to the first classification in the event that the first classifier makes the classification, wherein the statistical message classifier is configured to detect an unsolicited message and comprises a knowledge base that tracks the spam probability of features in classified messages[[.]]; and
a second classifier coupled to the first classifier, capable of reliably making a second classification, and configured to further test the message in the event that the message is not classifiable by the first classifier.

30. (currently amended) A computer readable storage medium having embodied thereon a program, the program being executable by a processor to perform a method for improving a statistical message classifier, the method comprising:

testing a message with a machine classifier, wherein the machine classifier is capable of making a classification of the message and the machine classifier is a reliable classifier having a probability of erroneous classification of less than one percent; and

in the event the machine classifier makes the classification, updating the statistical message classifier according to the reliable classification made by the machine classifier, wherein the statistical message classifier is configured to detect an unsolicited message and comprises a knowledge base that tracks the spam probability of features in classified messages.

31. (currently amended) A computer readable storage medium having embodied thereon a program, the program being executable to perform a method for improving a statistical message classifier, the method comprising:

testing a message with a first classifier wherein the first classifier is capable of reliably making a first classification and having a probability of erroneous classification of less than one percent;

in the event that the first classifier makes the classification, updating the statistical message classifier according to the first classification, wherein the statistical message classifier is configured to detect an unsolicited message and comprises a knowledge base that tracks the spam probability of features in classified messages;

in the event that the first classifier does not make the classification, testing the message with a second classifier, wherein the second classifier is capable of reliably making a second classification;

in the event that the second classifier makes the classification, updating the statistical message classifier according to the second classification.